



File Code: 2230

Date: May 6, 2011

**2011 Annual Operating Instructions
Laguna Seca Allotment # 340**

Dear Permittee,

This letter details your 2011 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Laguna Seca grazing allotment as discussed in your annual operating meeting at the district office. During the 2011 grazing year, the Laguna Seca and Valencia grazing allotments will be managed together to give more flexibility in managing livestock, making use of available water, and maintaining conservative use levels. The Laguna Seca and Valencia allotments have been managed together in previous years and it has proven to be beneficial in managing our rangelands.

A. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS & SEASON OF USE

The following numbers and classes of livestock will be permitted to graze the Laguna Seca allotment this year.

Table 1. Livestock numbers and season of use.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permitted #'s</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Authorized #'s</u>
Laguna Seca	237	Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/31	60

B. GRAZING SYSTEM Grazing Schedule and Pasture Sequence:

Table 2. Grazing schedule and pasture sequence.

Pasture	Dates
Jaramillo	06/01 – 06/30
Ciruelas	07/01 – 07/31
Valdez	08/01 – 09/15
Campo	09/16 – 10/31
Companero	Non-use
Cottonwood	Non-use

Distribute cattle between pastures to the extent water and forage availability will allow. To attain the prescribed minimum average leaf lengths at the end of the season, it will be necessary to maintain good livestock distribution throughout the season.



C. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

The following will be completed this grazing season:

Maintenance of the East Boundary Fence. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate. Permittees failing to fulfill maintenance responsibilities will result in cattle not being authorized to enter the allotment.

Insure that any pieces of old plastic pipe, old fence wire, or any discarded materials involved in range improvement maintenance is cleaned up and removed from Forest lands.

Any range improvement maintenance that involves physical ground disturbance must have prior approval from the District Ranger. Please contact the district office with any questions you may have regarding this issue.

D. SALTING AND SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

Salt and supplemental feed will be used as a range management tool to draw livestock into areas of little or no use. This normally does not include areas adjacent to water or canyon bottoms. Salt should be checked and moved periodically to avoid potential overuse.

E. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land, and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of extreme fire danger, branding fires will be prohibited or else be allowed by permit only.

All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only with prior approval of the District Ranger.

F. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (MSO PAC'S)

The Laguna Seca allotment contains a MSO PAC. It is critical that use levels within this PAC be closely monitored. A maximum forage use level within MSO PAC's has been set at 30%. If use becomes a concern within the PAC, livestock must be promptly moved away from this area.

MONITORING

Grazing intensity is a critical factor in managing the Laguna Seca and Valencia allotments. Forest Service personnel will be using a variety of accepted methods to monitor key grazing areas. Permittees are invited and encouraged to participate in monitoring visits.

Key forage species have been identified for the Laguna Seca and Valencia allotments. A maximum forage use level of 30-40% has been set for the Laguna Seca and Valencia allotments. Maintenance of the appropriate minimum average leaf lengths on key species will result in conservative use levels.

Table 3. Monitoring location, key species, and stubble height.

LOCATION	KEY SPECIES	STUBBLE HT.
All Key Areas	Western Wheat	4 - 5 in.
	Blue Grama	2 – 2.5 in.
	Galleta	3 - 4 in.
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 5.5 in.

G. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The drought conditions we have experienced in the past few years have returned over the 2010/2011 winter months. However, we have received some recent precipitation. With this recent precipitation, we will have a good start to our grazing season. We can only speculate at this point whether the improved moisture patterns, will continue throughout 2011. Please ensure that you have a contingency plan for management of your livestock if drought conditions return this summer. If conditions warrant, we will need to work closely together to amend your annual operating instructions in order to meet rangeland resource objectives.

Our mutual goal should be to protect the long-term productivity of the range resource while considering the needs of your livestock operation. I strongly encourage you to closely monitor forage use levels using the guidelines in the Special Management Concerns described above. It is important that we communicate effectively to address proper grazing management and avoid emergency situations.

OTHER

You are authorized to park your camper trailer above the Laguna Seca corral. Please ensure that you keep this camping area clean.

H. Appeal Rights

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to the closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, New Mexico 87571, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with the Jicarilla District Ranger, 664 E. Broadway Bloomfield, NM 87413.

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Laguna Seca allotment for the 2011 grazing season, please contact Roy Hudgeons at (505) 632-2956.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark S. Catron

MARK S. CATRON
District Ranger
Jicarilla Ranger District
Carson National Forest